

Is Applying Early Right for You?



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What factors should you take into consideration when deciding whether to apply regular decision or early?

Students should only apply early if they are happy with their college essays and grades from AP/DE courses taken prior to senior year. It is very important not to rush an early application. However, if a student feels ready to go with their applications in the fall, there can be some benefits to considering Early Action/Early Decision.

Early Action/Early Decision

Students who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying early. Ivy Leagues and many highly selective colleges accept almost 50% of their freshman class through Early Action/Early Decision. Applications are typically due in October or November of senior year.

- **Early Action (EA):** Accepted students are not required to attend EA college.
- **Early Decision (ED):** Accepted students are required to attend ED college and withdraw other college applications.
 - Because ED is binding, it is important that students with financial need apply ONLY to colleges that guarantee to meet 100% of the student's financial need (please see the list of colleges that guarantee to meet 100% of financial need on p. 14).
 - Only families that can afford to pay the full cost of college out of pocket should apply ED to colleges that are not included on this list.

QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship

Students with high financial need (household income of \$65,000 per year or less) who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to QuestBridge, a 4-year full-ride scholarship to highly selective partner colleges. Applications are due September 27th of senior year: questbridge.org/high-school-students/national-college-match

- Accepted students are required to attend the QuestBridge partner college to which they are matched. Partner colleges for Questbridge are below:

Amherst College	Duke University	Princeton University	Univ of Southern CA
Bowdoin College	Emory University	Rice University	University of Virginia
Brown University	Grinnell College	Scripps College	Vanderbilt
CA Institute of Tech	Hamilton College	Stanford University	Vassar College
Carleton College	Haverford College	Swarthmore College	Washington & Lee
Claremont McKenna	Macalester College	Trinity College	Washington University in St. Louis
Colby College	MIT	Tufts University	Wellesley College
Colorado College	Northwestern Univ	University of Chicago	Wesleyan University
Columbia	Oberlin College	Notre Dame	Williams College
Dartmouth	Pomona College	Univ of Pennsylvania	Yale University
Davidson College			

Gates Scholarship

Minority students with high financial need (Pell Grant-eligible – typically corresponds with free/reduced lunch eligibility) who rank in the top 10% of the class and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to Gates, a 4-year full-ride scholarship to a college of the student's choice. Applications are due September 18th of senior year: thegates scholarship.org

Posse Scholarship

Students with strong leadership experience who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to Posse, a 4-year full-tuition scholarship to highly selective partner colleges. Students must be nominated in the spring of junior year in order to apply, and the application process is interview based. To request nomination, juniors must submit this Google form (<https://bit.ly/2INGcuP>) by June 3rd: possefoundation.org

- Accepted students are required to attend the Posse partner college to which they are matched. Partner colleges for Posse DC are:

Bucknell University Lafayette College Sewanee University of Rochester University of Wisconsin-Madison

Colleges that Meet 100% of Financial Need



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The following colleges and universities guarantee to meet the full demonstrated financial need of every FAFSA-eligible student. Visit each school's Net Price Calculator to calculate your personalized net price collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx

Amherst College (MA)	Mount Holyoke College (MA)
Barnard College (NY)	Northwestern University (IL)
Bates College (ME)	Oberlin College (OH)
Berea College (KY)	Occidental College (CA)
Boston College (MA)	Pitzer College (CA)
Bowdoin College (ME)	Pomona College (CA)
Brown University (RI)	Princeton University (NJ)
Bryn Mawr College (PA)	Reed College (OR)
California Institute of Technology (CA)	Rice University (TX)
Carleton College (MN)	Scripps College (CA)
Claremont McKenna College (CA)	Skidmore College (NY)
Colby College (ME)	Smith College (MA)
Colgate University (NY)	St. Olaf College (MN)
College of the Holy Cross (MA)	Stanford University (CA)
Colorado College (CO)	Swarthmore College (PA)
Columbia University (NY)	Thomas Aquinas College (CA)
Connecticut College (CT)	Trinity College (CT)
Cornell University (NY)	Tufts University (MA)
Dartmouth College (NH)	Union College (NY)
Davidson College (NC)	University of Chicago (IL)
Duke University (NC)	University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill (NC)
Emory University (GA)	University of Notre Dame (IN)
Franklin & Marshall College (PA)	University of Pennsylvania
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering (MA)	University of Richmond (VA)
Georgetown University (DC)	University of Southern California (CA)
Grinnell College (IA)	University of Virginia (VA)
Hamilton College (NY)	Vanderbilt University (TN)
Harvard University (MA)	Vassar College (NY)
Harvey Mudd College (CA)	Wake Forest University (NC)
Haverford College (PA)	Washington and Lee University (VA)
Kenyon College (OH)	Washington University in St. Louis (MO)
Lafayette College (PA)	Wellesley College (MA)
Macalester College (MN)	Wesleyan University (CT)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MA)	Williams College (MA)
Middlebury College (VT)	Yale University (CT)